

was as soon out of breath, as if I had had no Sponge, nor could I fetch my breath without taking in water at my mouth; but I am very apt to think, that were there a contrivance whereby the expir'd air might be forc'd to pass through a wet or oyley Sponge before it were again inspir'd, it might much cleanse, and strain away from the Air divers fuliginous and other noisome steams, and the dipping of it in certain liquors might, perhaps, so renew that property in the Air which it loses in the Lungs, by being breath'd, that one square foot of Air might last a man for respiration much longer, perhaps, then ten will now serve him of common Air.

Observ. XXIII. *Of the curious texture of Sea-weeds.*

For curiosity and beauty, I have not among all the Plants or Vegetables I have yet observ'd, seen any one comparable to this Sea-weed I have here describ'd, of which I am able to say very little more then what is represented by the second *Figure* of the ninth *Scheme*: Namely, that it is a Plant which grows upon the Rocks under the water, and increases and spreads it self into a great tuft, which is not onely handsomely branch'd into several leaves, but the whole surface of the Plant is cover'd over with a most curious kind of carv'd work, which consists of a texture much resembling a Honey-comb; for the whole surface on both sides is cover'd over with a multitude of very small holes, being no bigger then so many holes made with the point of a small Pinn, and rang'd in the neatest and most delicate order imaginable, they being plac'd in the manner of a *Quincunx*, or very much like the rows of the eyes of a Fly, the rows or orders being very regular, which way soever they are observ'd: what the texture was, as it appear'd through a pretty bigg Magnifying *Microscope*, I have here adjoin'd in the first *Figure* of the 14. *Scheme*, which round Area ABCD represents a part of the surface about one eighth part of an Inch in Diameter: Those little holes, which to the eye look'd round, like so many little spots, here appear'd very regularly shap'd holes, representing almost the shape of the sole of a round toed shoe, the hinder part of which, is, as it were, trod on or cover'd by the toe of that next below it; these holes seem'd wall'd about with a very thin and transparent substance, looking of a pale straw-colour; from the edge of which, against the middle of each hole, were sprouted out four small transparent straw-colour'd Thorns, which seem'd to protect and cover those cavities, from either side two; neer the root of this Plant, were sprouted out several small branches of a kind of bastard *Coralline*, curiously branch'd, though small.

And to confirm this, having lately the opportunity of viewing the large Plant (if I may so call it) of a Sponge petrify'd, of which I made mention in the last Observation, I found, that each of the Branches or Figures of it, did, by the range of its pores, exhibit just such a texture, the